

THE CONSIDERING EVIDENCE PROTOCOL

Purpose: This protocol is used after inquiry groups have done one or more rounds of collecting evidence that they think informs their question/focus. Note: The evidence is not meant to “answer” the question but inform it and this protocol will help to identify what additional information might be collected to move the inquiry forward. Each inquiry group takes a turn being the presenter. This protocol will take between 15-20 minutes for a single round of evidence. For three pieces of evidence are discussed, it will take between 35-45 minutes per group.

1. The presenting group shares with the larger group their refined question/focus. (1 minutes)
2. The presenters then share the pieces of evidence they brought. *It is suggested that the inquiry group present no more than three pieces of evidence to allow each to be shared and discussed in depth.* For each piece of evidence the inquiry group briefly answers the following questions. (3-5 minutes)
 - What did you bring?
 - Why did you bring this?
 - What does it say to you in relation to your question/focus?
3. The group asks a few, brief clarifying questions of the presenter about the particular piece of evidence being shared. *NOTE: Clarifying questions are factual, easily-answered questions. The general rule is that they can be answered in a single sentence or less.* (1-2 minutes)
4. The group examines the evidence (documents and artifacts) that the presenting group brought. This is done in silence with notes being taken as needed. (3-5 minutes)
5. The larger group of respondents shares their own observations, interpretations, ideas, and questions that the piece of evidence provokes for them. During this step in the protocol, the presenter just listens and does not respond. (3-5 minutes)
 - ***Steps 2-5 are repeated for each piece of evidence the inquiry group has gathered. It is suggested that the inquiry group present no more than three pieces of evidence to allow each to be shared and discussed in depth.***
6. After all the evidence has been presented, the larger group brainstorms other resources, ideas, suggestions that they think might help the presenter pursue their question/focus further. The presenters may contribute their ideas as well. (4-5 minutes)